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Editor
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Editor:

In a recent Spectator article about environmental sensitivities Toronto psychiatrist Susan Abbey's whines about the fact that Health and Welfare is taking a position that is different than her own in connection with environmental sensitivities. Health and Welfare is promoting the internationally accepted recommendation that patients be screened for sensitivities before potentially detrimental psychiatric interventions are embarked on.

It would only be fair for the public to know that two years ago Dr. Abbey was asked by the Canadian Psychiatric Association's Executive Director, Alex Saunders, to enter into discussions with the self help group of persons with sensitivities, specifically about abuse by psychiatrists of persons with this disability. I know this because I was the contact person in the self-help group.

At first she agreed, then refused to discuss how members of her profession are abusing persons with this disability. Now she is criticising federal government efforts to stop that abuse.

At some point the CPA (and the CMA, for that matter) will put behind them the fact that bigoted attitudes in their staff and in their membership have hurt hundreds, possibly thousands of people, and join Health and Welfare in bringing an end to the abuse.

Sincerely,



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